

In the Claims:

Claims 1-24 (Cancelled)

25. (Currently Amended): An isolated polypeptide comprising a member selected from the group consisting of

- (a) an amino acid sequence comprising the sequence set forth in SEQ ID NO:2 ~~matching one of SEQ ID NOs:2 (BASB047), 4 (BASB054), 6 (BASB068), or 8 (BASB069);~~
- (b) an immunogenic polypeptide comprising a fragment sequence of at least 15 amino acids that corresponds to matches an aligned contiguous segment of SEQ ID NO:2 ~~one of SEQ ID NOs: 2, 4, 6, or 8;~~

wherein the isolated polypeptide, when administered to a subject in a suitable composition which can include an adjuvant, or a suitable carrier coupled to the polypeptide, induces an antibody or T-cell immune response to a polypeptide having the sequence of SEQ ID NO:2 ~~one of SEQ ID NOs:2, 4, 6, or 8.~~

26. (Withdrawn): An isolated polynucleotide encoding a polypeptide of Claim 25 or the full complement to the isolated polynucleotide.

27. (Original): The isolated polypeptide of claim 25, wherein the polypeptide is according to (a).

28. (Withdrawn): An isolated polynucleotide encoding a polypeptide of Claim 27 or the full complement to the isolated polynucleotide.

29. (Original) The isolated polypeptide of claim 25, wherein the polypeptide is according to (b).

30. (Withdrawn): An isolated polynucleotide encoding a polypeptide of Claim 29 or the full complement to the isolated polynucleotide.

31. (Original): The isolated polypeptide of claim 25, wherein the immunogenic fragment of (b) comprises at least 20 amino acids.

32. (Currently Amended): The isolated polypeptide of Claim 25 wherein the isolated polypeptide of (a) consists of SEQ ID NO:2~~one of SEQ ID NOs:2, 4, 6, and 8.~~

33. (Withdrawn): An isolated polynucleotide encoding a polypeptide of Claim 32 or the full complement to the isolated polynucleotide.

C¹
34. (Withdrawn): A process for expressing the polynucleotide of Claim 33 comprising transforming a host cell with an expression vector comprising the polynucleotide and culturing the host cell under conditions sufficient for expression of the polynucleotide.

35. (Original): A fusion protein comprising the isolated polypeptide of Claim 25.

36. (Withdrawn): An isolated polynucleotide comprising the polynucleotide of one of SEQ ID NOs:1, 3, 5, or 7.

37. (Withdrawn): An isolated polynucleotide segment comprising a polynucleotide sequence or the full complement of the entire length of the polynucleotide sequence, wherein the polynucleotide sequence hybridizes to the full complement of one of SEQ ID NOs:1, 3, 5, or 7 minus the complement of any stop codon, wherein the hybridization conditions include incubation at 42°C in a solution comprising: 50% formamide, 5x SSC (150mM NaCl, 15mM trisodium citrate), 50 mM sodium phosphate (pH7.6), 5x Denhardt's solution, 10% dextran sulfate, and 20 micrograms/ml denatured, sheared salmon sperm DNA, followed by washing in 0.1x SSC at 65°C; and, wherein the polynucleotide sequence is identical to one of SEQ ID NOs:1, 3, 5, or 7 minus any terminal stop codon, except that, over the entire length corresponding to one of SEQ ID NOs:1, 3, 5, or 7 minus any terminal stop codon, n_n nucleotides are substituted, inserted or deleted, wherein n_n satisfies the following expression

$$n_n \leq x_n - (x_n \bullet y)$$

wherein x_n is the total number of nucleotides in SEQ ID NOs:1, 3, 5, or 7 minus any terminal stop codon, y is at least 0.95, and wherein any non-integer product of x_n and y is rounded down to the nearest integer before subtracting the product from x_n ; and wherein the polynucleotide sequence detects *Neisseria meningitidis*.

38. (Withdrawn): An expression vector comprising the isolated polynucleotide of Claim 26.

39. (Withdrawn): A host cell transformed with the expression vector of Claim 38.

C 40. (Currently Amended): An immunogenic composition ~~A vaccine~~ comprising the polypeptide of Claim 25 and a pharmaceutically acceptable carrier.

41. (Currently Amended): The immunogenic composition ~~vaccine~~ of Claim 40, wherein the immunogenic composition ~~vaccine~~ comprises at least one other *Neisseria meningitidis* antigen in addition to an antigen provided by the polypeptide.

42. (Withdrawn): An antibody immunospecific for the polypeptide or immunogenic fragment of Claim 25.

43. (Original): A method for inducing an immune response in a mammal comprising administration of the polypeptide of Claim 25.

44. (Withdrawn): A method of diagnosing a *Neisseria meningitidis* infection, comprising identifying a polypeptide of Claim 25, or an antibody that is immunospecific for the polypeptide, present within a biological sample from an animal suspected of having such an infection.

45. (Withdrawn): A method for inducing an immune response in a mammal comprising administration of the isolated polynucleotide of Claim 26.

46. (Withdrawn): A therapeutic composition useful in treating humans with *Neisseria meningitidis* comprising at least one antibody directed against the polypeptide of claim 25 and a suitable pharmaceutical carrier.
-